

than it is among more integrated groups, though that remains to be proved, but they are susceptible to the same methods of improvement that are applied to 'pure' peoples. I subscribe without qualification to the prevention of undeniably dysgenic matings, whether exogamous or endogamous, but not to the conceit that colour and economic success are indices of desirability."

This quotation gives a pretty good idea of Mr. Dover's opinions and style. It cannot convey the richness and diversity of the material on which he has drawn or the skill with which he builds up and holds the attention in a sustained argument. For that the reader must turn to the book itself. It should be read and pondered upon by every member of the *Eugenics Society*.

MICHAEL FIELDING.

CONTRACEPTION

Knowlton, Charles. *Fruits of Philosophy*. Edited with an introductory note by Norman E. Himes, Ph.D., with medical emendations by Robert Laton Dickinson, M.D., F.A.C.S. Mount Vernon, 1937. Peter Pauper Press. Pp. xv + 107.

KNOWLTON'S *Fruits of Philosophy*, first published in 1832, is one of the recognized classics of birth-control. It is, as Professor Himes reminds us in his scholarly introduction, "the most important treatise on birth control technique for seventeen centuries; the greatest since the chapter in Sorano's *Gynæcology* (second century A.D.)." Unfortunately it is a classic also in the sense that though known to many it is read by very few. This is an omission which, thanks to Professor Himes's enterprise, can now be repaired. He has issued in a beautiful format the text of the edition, the American tenth, which is known to embody Knowlton's final revisions

and thus his most mature reflections. To it is appended, under the title "Medical Emendations," a note by Dr. R. L. Dickinson, which deals with the few, the surprisingly few, matters in which contraceptive knowledge has advanced since Knowlton's time.

We shall not, at this time of day, "review" *Fruits of Philosophy*. It is enough to say that thanks to the prosecution in 1877 of the English publisher, Edward Truelove, and in 1878 of Charles Bradlaugh and Annie Besant (who to defend the right of publication organized the sale of the work), it became the most important pioneer work on birth-control in this country. This alone is sufficient reason for including it in the library of everyone who is concerned in the birth-control movement; but there are others. *Fruits of Philosophy*, though written so long ago, has a most astonishing contemporary quality. Most of Knowlton's arguments, with few saving clauses, are relevant to-day. They should indeed be read by every modern writer on birth-control; the discovery that Knowlton said practically everything we say on the subject to-day, and rather more eloquently, has a most chastening effect.

This particular edition has two advantages over any of its predecessors. It is in the first place beautifully produced, the typography, paper and binding providing a worthy setting for a work that has made history. Secondly, Knowlton is here in company with two writers who are also making birth-control history—with Professor Himes who quite literally made it in his *Medical History of Contraception* (also destined to become a classic) and with Dr. R. L. Dickinson who has probably done more than anyone else in America to promote scientific research upon the matters that Knowlton first popularized over a century ago.

MICHAEL FIELDING.